

Clinical Research Fellowship in Tics and Tourette Syndrome

Description of the fellowship opportunity:

This fellowship opportunity provides advanced training in Tourette syndrome (TS) and other tic disorders at the Tics and Tourette Clinic, a provincial clinic within the Department of Psychiatry at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). SickKids is a quaternary care paediatric hospital fully affiliated with the University of Toronto's Department of Psychiatry.

The goal of the fellowship will be to gain expertise in TS and tic disorders, working within the multidisciplinary stepped care model of the clinic by collaborating with colleagues in psychiatry, psychology and neurology.

The fellow will develop expertise in the diagnostic assessment and comprehensive management of Tourette syndrome and common comorbidities, including:

- obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)
- attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- learning disabilities
- anxiety
- depression
- rage outbursts
- autism spectrum disorder
- sensory hypersensitivities
- sleep difficulties.

Interventions include:

- neuropsychological evaluation
- psychosocial management and support
- comprehensive behavioural intervention for tics (CBIT)
- complex psychopharmacological management

The fellow will also gain experience in distinguishing tics from functional tic-like behaviours.

In addition to direct clinical work, the fellow will participate in monthly TS Multi-Disciplinary Clinical Case Conferences with colleagues at SickKids and clinicians in the community. The fellow will have opportunity to contribute to the clinical teaching of learners across levels and disciplines, as well as participate in community



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outreach and knowledge translation to build capacity of care across the province.

The fellow will engage in quality improvement and/or research projects that have direct clinical impact. Fellows will have one day per week for academic activities (i.e. teaching plus quality improvement and/or research project).

Fellows will participate in department on call shifts. Our clinic is interested in making use of measurement-based care and ensuring equitable access to care, as well as precision health in the management of patients presenting with tic disorders.

Depending on interest, the fellow can access data collected as part of the Province of Ontario Neurodevelopmental Disorders (POND) Network for research into the neurobiology of TS.